

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 48 (CANCELED)

49. (NEW) A male-sterile corn plant produced by growing seed of corn line 4VP500, a representative sample of the seed having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5268.

50. (NEW) An F_1 hybrid corn seed produced by a method comprising: crossing an inbred corn plant with another different inbred corn plant and harvesting the resultant F_1 hybrid corn seed, wherein the inbred parent corn plant or the other different inbred corn plant is produced by growing inbred corn seed 4VP500, a representative sample of the seed having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5268.

51. (NEW) A hybrid corn plant, or a part thereof, produced by a method comprising: growing the F_1 hybrid corn seed of claim 50.

52. (NEW) A corn seed produced by a method comprising: growing the F_1 hybrid corn plant of claim 51 and harvesting the resultant corn seed.

53. (NEW) A method of producing corn seed comprising: crossing the hybrid corn plant of claim 51 with another corn plant and harvesting the resultant corn seed.

54. (NEW) A method of producing inbred corn seed 4VP500, a representative sample of the seed having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5268, comprising:

- a) planting a collection of seed comprising seed of a hybrid, one of whose parents is inbred corn plant 4VP500, the collection also comprising seed of the inbred;
 - b) growing plants from the collection of seed;
 - c) identifying inbred parent plants with decreased vigor;
 - d) controlling pollination to preserve homozygosity of the inbred parent plants;
- and,
- e) harvesting the resultant inbred corn seed.

55. (NEW) A method of introducing a desired trait into corn inbred line 4VP500, comprising:

a) crossing inbred corn plant 4VP500, a representative sample of seed of the inbred line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-5268, with a second corn plant comprising a desired trait to produce progeny corn plants;

b) selecting from the progeny corn plants a progeny corn plant that comprises the desired trait;

c) crossing the selected progeny plant with a further corn plant 4VP500 to produce further progeny corn plants;

d) selecting a further progeny plant that comprises the desired trait and substantially all physiological and morphological characteristics of the corn plant 4VP500; and,

e) repeating steps c) and d) one or more times to produce a converted progeny plant comprising the desired trait.

56. (NEW) The method of claim 55, wherein the desired trait is selected from the group consisting of male sterility, waxy starch, herbicide resistance, resistance to bacterial, fungal, or viral disease, insect resistance, male fertility, enhanced nutritional quality, industrial usage, yield stability and yield enhancement.

57. (NEW) A plant produced by the method of claim 55, wherein the plant has the desired trait.